

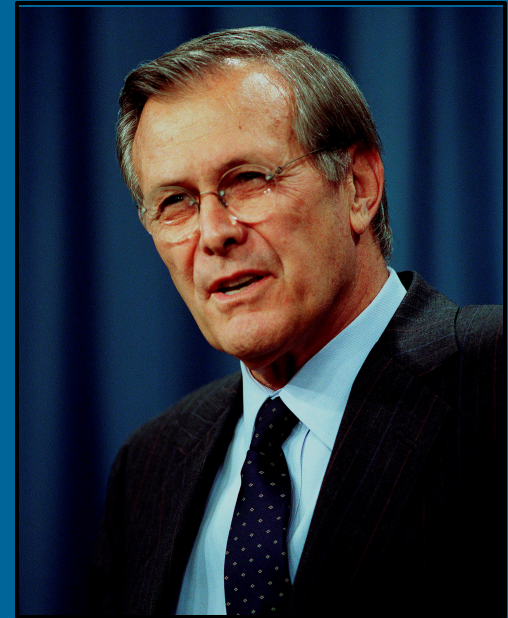


Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office

2003 Annual Report

"We will leave no one behind in Iraq or any of those missing from World War II, Vietnam, Korea, the Cold War or other past conflicts."

*—Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense*



The Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office provides policy oversight for the mission to recover and account for captured, missing or isolated men and women placed in harm's way while serving our Nation in hostile situations. These actions, defined as *personnel recovery and accounting*, are the sum of military, civil and political actions to gain the return of our men and women...one of our highest national priorities.

This report provides a window into some of DPMO's programs and initiatives. For more information about our organization and for continually updated material about DPMO and its work, please see our Web site at www.dtic.mil/dpmo.

[Introduction](#) page 4

[Message from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs](#) page 5

[Personnel Accounting History](#) page 6

[Archival Research](#) page 8 [U.S.-Russia Joint Commission](#) page 10

[1991 Gulf War](#) page 14 [Vietnam War](#) page 16

[Cold War](#) page 28 [Korean War](#) page 30 [World War II](#) page 38

[Communications](#) page 44 [Personnel Recovery](#) page 54



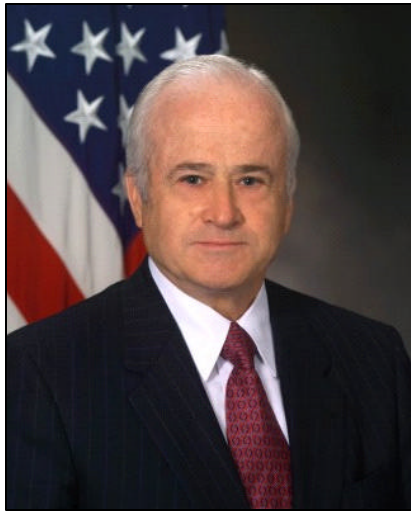


OUR SOLEMN PLEDGE

No loss is as painful to a family as that of a loved one who honored our Nation's call to arms, served his or her country, yet never returned from foreign battlefields. The effort to recover fallen comrades underscores the value Americans place on even a single human life. This is the Nation's commitment to the people of our great country, to the families of those fallen and who have yet to return, and to the Service members who sacrifice all in the defense of the nation. We seek the recovery or *fullest possible accounting* for all Americans who died in defense of our country and our way of life. Simply put, whether missing as a result of past, present, or future conflicts—we will spare no effort to bring them home.

"The brave men and women who serve today—whether in Afghanistan—northern Iraq-- and in other theaters of the war on terrorism—can do so with the full confidence that if they are captured, become missing or fall in battle, this nation will spare no effort to bring them home. That is our solemn pledge. However long it takes, whatever it takes, whatever the cost."

*—Paul Wolfowitz
Deputy Secretary of Defense
January 21, 2003*



In 1993, the Department of Defense formed DPMO for a single unique purpose, to achieve the fullest possible accounting of our fallen warriors who never returned from foreign battlefields. Today, although our mission has expanded, the men and women of DPMO remain dedicated to that purpose and are pleased to share with you many of the 2003 initiatives for which they are responsible.

The people of DPMO, and our partners in this effort, continue to set a standard of excellence for which our Nation is justifiably proud. Whether they are negotiating with China or the North Koreans; initiating contact with the governments of Burma or Papua New Guinea; broadening their contacts with Russia and Japan; searching for new leads and additional reports; excavating a crash or grave site in the jungles of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos; identifying recovered remains; or promoting new technology to assist today's Service personnel in avoiding capture, these are highly skilled and talented people whose dedication is unparalleled. Across the globe, the leadership and professionalism they display serve as shining examples of the compassionate nature of Americans.

The men and women of DPMO, both civilian and military, are proud of their work, and so am I. I have had the good fortune to be their Director for more than two years, and I know how committed each of them is to our sacred mission. The following pages highlight some details of that work and the immense effort committed to achieving the fullest possible accounting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry D. Jennings". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jerry D. Jennings
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
POW/Missing Personnel Affairs

PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING—HISTORY

HISTORY

From World War II to the present, more than 88,800 Americans remain missing. The U.S. Government (USG) is dedicated to achieving the *fullest possible accounting* for these patriots and their families. The mission of accounting for America's missing was scattered among several agencies until Congress determined that a single office should be responsible for overseeing and managing a consistent, government-wide effort.

The Department of Defense established the Defense POW/Missing in Action Office in July 1993 with a focus on achieving the fullest possible accounting for Americans missing as a result of past conflicts. Then in 1996, Congress modified the Missing Persons Act, placing responsibility for policy, control and oversight over all matters pertaining to missing personnel (i.e., personnel

accounting and personnel recovery) into one office under the Secretary of Defense. This expanded DPMO's charter from focusing solely on missing from past conflicts, to include policy, control and oversight over the recovery of Americans who may become missing in current and future conflicts as well. To reflect our expanded mission, we changed our name to the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office.

This report highlights the many facets of DPMO's worldwide mission. It begins with the research necessary to establish case files for those still unaccounted for and moves through our other responsibilities in personnel accounting. Later, the report shows how we communicate our mission to the families, the Congress, and the American people. It concludes by addressing our personnel recovery responsibilities for the return to U.S. control of Americans who become isolated,

missing or captured while serving in harm's way, today, and into the future.

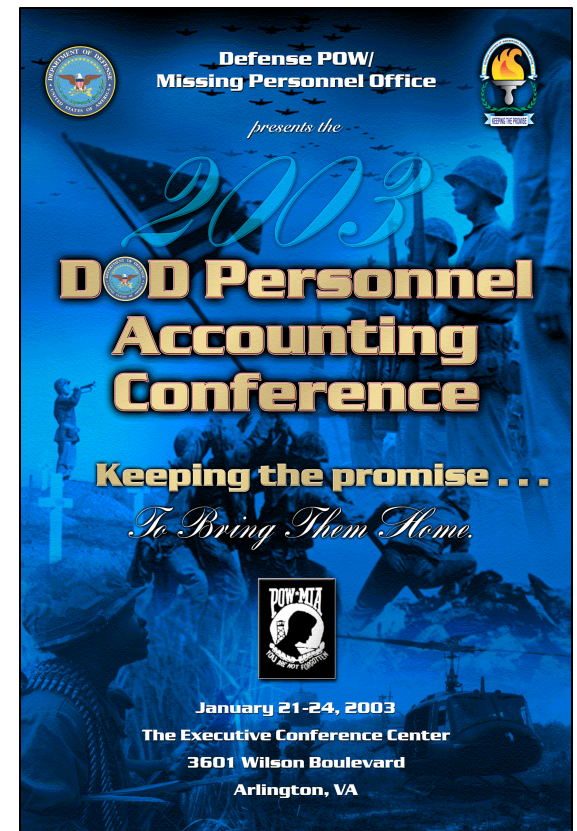
NEW DIRECTIVE ESTABLISHES OVERARCHING POLICY FOR PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING

On November 10, 2003, the Deputy Secretary of Defense signed Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 2310.7, "Personnel Accounting – Losses Due to Hostile Acts." This landmark document establishes policy and assigns responsibilities throughout DoD for losses due to hostile acts and institutionalizes the manner in which we account for our missing personnel. It governs the way DoD accounts for missing personnel from the 1991 Gulf War, the Vietnam War, the

Korean Conflict, the Cold War, and World War II. Importantly, it also applies to personnel who may become unaccounted for as a result of hostile acts in future conflicts and directs the combatant commanders to begin planning for post conflict activities.

PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING CONFERENCE

In January 2003, DPMO chaired the first-ever DoD Personnel Accounting Conference. Attendees included representatives of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, United States Pacific Command, the Military Departments, the National Intelligence Community, the Department of State, the major veterans service organizations, and the leaders of the organizations representing the families



PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING—ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

of the missing from the Vietnam and Korean wars. The conference afforded individuals in the personnel accounting community, and the organizations that support their efforts, the opportunity to gather to learn more about one another, exchange ideas, identify challenges facing the community, and develop strategies for the future. Conference participants also met in regional workshops and finalized draft accounting strategies for key nations in which the U.S. conducts accounting operations.

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

DPMO scours archives in both the United States and abroad to retrieve evidence concerning the circumstances of loss of unaccounted-for Americans from World War II to the present. Our dedicated researchers and historians search for information that will contribute to resolving the cases of unaccounted-for personnel. In addition to researching the holdings at the National Archives, U.S. military history institutes,

and museums within the United States, DPMO researchers worked with archivists from Australia and Papua New Guinea to tap into foreign archives for material not available from domestic sources. In order to access records in Vietnamese, Lao and Chinese Government archives, DPMO has proposed, to the three governments, programs to use their approved researchers to retrieve POW/MIA-related documents on behalf of the U.S.

Maximizing their resources, DPMO researchers responded to over 1,200 case requests from families and concerned citizens. With the activities commemorating the 60th anniversary of World War II, we anticipate an increased interest in the history of that war, and thus have begun work compiling a Personnel Missing World War II (PMWWII) database. We expect to complete this important research in late 2005.



Boxes of historical documents in the United Nations Archive in New York City.



Commander James Wong and Dr. Jean Mansavage reviewing historical documents in the reading room at the United Nations Archive.

PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING—U.S. - RUSSIA JOINT COMMISSION ON POW/MIAS

UNITED STATES – RUSSIA JOINT COMMISSION ON POW/MIAS

The presidents of the United States and Russia established the United States-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC) on March 26, 1992. The USRJC is comprised of senior American and Russian executive and legislative branch officials who gather in plenary sessions and working-level meetings to assess and coordinate policy, research, and investigative efforts to clarify the fates of missing American and Russian service members.

DPMO provides direct analytical, investigative, and administrative

support to the USRJC. The work of the Commission focuses on three primary objectives:

- To determine if any American POW/MIAs are being held against their will on the territory of the former Soviet Union and, if so, to secure their immediate release and repatriation;
- To determine the fate of unaccounted-for members of the U.S. Armed Forces who were located on the territory of the former Soviet Union or about whom the Russian Government may have information; and



This GULAG camp cemetery is located near the city of Vorkuta in the Konic region of Russia. It is one of many such camps where political exiles, common criminals, and, reportedly, foreign prisoners, were held during the Soviet period. GULAG Study Group researchers conducted four expeditions to former Gulag sites, but no evidence surfaced of American servicemen held there. The commission continues its investigation into the camps and the numerous accounts of American servicemen held there.

- To clarify facts pertaining to Soviet personnel missing from their war in Afghanistan, from Cold War-era loss incidents, and from World War II.

The USRJC has held 18 plenary sessions (16 in Moscow and 2 in Washington), in addition to 3 meetings of principals, numerous technical talks and working-level sessions.

To facilitate its work, the USRJC is organized into four working groups examining World War II, the Cold War, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. The U.S. side of the Commission has

also established a special GULAG study group to focus exclusively on the numerous eyewitness accounts about alleged Americans in the GULAG, the Stalin-era Soviet prison camp system.

In 2003, a number of senior government officials serving as American commissioners performed valuable service on behalf of the Commission in the former Soviet Union and Central Europe. Mr. Jerry Jennings met with Russian officials in Moscow in September and accomplished important objectives, including agreement for the U.S. side of the Commission to host a conference for Russian and American



At a meeting with the Russian side of the Joint Commission on September 11, 2003, DASD Jennings obtained Russian agreement to release another 12,000 pages of formerly classified Soviet combat reports from the Korean War. These documents contain important information about the fates of missing Americans from that conflict.

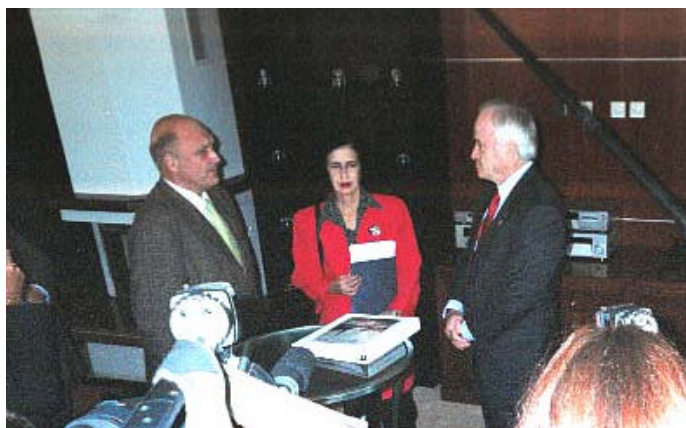
PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING—U.S. - RUSSIA JOINT COMMISSION ON POW/MIAS

archivists in Washington in 2004 with the objective of improving and widening U.S. access to key Russian archives.

U.S. Representative Sam Johnson (R-TX), who serves on the USRJC as the Chairman of the Korean War Working Group, visited Moscow, Prague, and Budapest in January 2003. During his visits, he met with senior government officials and received pledges of close support from these countries. His visits resulted in important, first-ever access to sensitive archives, interviews with foreign officials, access to U.S. crash and burial sites, and important advances in other areas.

GULAG STUDY GROUP

The USRJC's GULAG Study Group collects and investigates hundreds of reports that the former Soviet Union held American Servicemen in the Stalin-era system of forced labor camps known as the GULAG. This year, for the first time, the group researched the archives of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, now located in Hungary, and obtained access to the Open Society Archives at Central European University in Budapest, Hungary. These collections contain a wealth of information about the GULAG, including locations of, and statements by former inmates, administrators, and officials involved in maintaining the GULAG. These leads provide an investigative track that the group



Mr. Jennings presents the granddaughter of Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin with information taken from the U.S. National Archives about the fate of her father--Stalin's son--who died in a Nazi prisoner-of-war camp in Poland during World War II. The Moscow press corps records the event (foreground).

will pursue in 2004, along with a new interview program among Hungarian survivors of the Soviet GULAG camps.

The GULAG Study Group also continues its research in the debriefings of Japanese and German POWs who survived imprisonment in the GULAG following World War II. These materials, known as the “Wringer Reports,” are contained in approximately 1,350 boxes maintained at the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, Maryland. They contain frequent references to the presence of American servicemen in the GULAG, and represent an important resource for the GULAG Study Group’s future efforts.

In 2003, GULAG researchers spent a combined 328 days on the road, interviewing 92 individuals in 19 cities in the former USSR and Central Europe.



Camp Perm-36 of the former Gulag serves as a historical record of life in that prison system.

PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING—1991 GULF WAR



Captain Michael Scott Speicher



Wreckage from Captain Speicher's aircraft.

THE 1991 GULF WAR

In February 1991, at the close of the Gulf War, one U.S. loss remained unresolved. It is the case of Navy Lieutenant Commander (now Captain) Michael Scott Speicher, an F/A-18 pilot flying off the *USS Saratoga*, who was lost January 17, 1991, approximately 100 miles southwest of Baghdad.

The Department of the Navy carried CAPT Speicher as missing-in-action until May 22, 1991, when it officially changed his status to killed-in-action, body-not-recovered. In January 2001, the Secretary of the Navy reinstated CAPT Speicher's status to missing-in-action. On October 11, 2002, after a careful review of the evidence available, the Secretary of the Navy once again changed his status to missing-captured.

Following his loss, the U.S. Government sought cooperation from the Government of Iraq to determine CAPT Speicher's whereabouts. Except for permitting access to investigate the crash site of CAPT Speicher's aircraft in 1995, the Government of Iraq was uncooperative, claiming it gave the U.S. all the information available regarding the case. With the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, U.S. officials are working with the Coalition Provisional Authority, the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the Tripartite Commission on Gulf War Missing, to question former Government of Iraq officials for information that could help resolve Captain Speicher's status.

In 2003, DPMO was actively involved in efforts to account for CAPT Speicher. During Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and through 2003, the U.S. Government

devoted significant resources to resolve the case, including numerous interviews with former regime officials. The effort continues with dedicated intelligence assets and significant military forces in the region. Intelligence specialists sifted through thousands of captured files, and have systematically searched possible detention centers in Iraq to find CAPT Speicher or information about what may have happened to him.

Neither interrogations of captured former Iraqi officials, interviews with Iraqi citizens, physical searches of known prisons and other sites, reviews of seized documents, nor re-examination of CAPT Speicher's crash site have revealed conclusive evidence regarding his fate. Efforts to develop and investigate leads continue.

As an active member of the U.S. delegation at all Gulf War Tripartite Commission (TPC) meetings, DPMO has used this forum to try to gain information about CAPT Speicher, especially prior to the fall of the Hussein regime. The TPC meets quarterly to account for all Gulf

War coalition missing. Other voting members of the commission include the United Kingdom, France, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Iraq. The former Iraqi regime officially boycotted the TPC meetings from January 1999 until its demise in March 2003.

In Baghdad on June 1, 2003, the International Committee of the Red Cross chaired a meeting of the TPC for Gulf War POWs and Missing Persons, and convened two meetings of the technical sub-committee: the first on June 2-5, 2003, in Baghdad and the second on October 12, 2003, in Kuwait. On December 9-10, 2003, a TPC meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland. The U.S. delegation raised CAPT Speicher's case at each of the TPC and sub-committee meetings, and will continue to do so until we resolve the case.

With the assistance of the Tripartite Commission on Gulf War Missing, as well as the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the U.S. Government continues to seek information that could help resolve his status.

PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING—VIETNAM WAR

VIETNAM WAR

In 2003, DPMO again moved aggressively to implement President Bush's priority commitment to account for our missing personnel from the Vietnam War. We accomplished this through several new initiatives that focused on policy formulation, integrating the USG position on the accounting issue across organizational and country boundaries in a new way, and through direct contact with senior officials.

In October 2003, DPMO hosted the first of what we intend to be an annual meeting of the senior POW/MIA representatives from the nations involved directly in Vietnam War accounting: the United States, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. These

consultations were the first where all four nations met in one venue to discuss POW/MIA issues of mutual concern. The consultations also served to develop a long-term dialogue between the senior POW/MIA officials from each country in order to identify areas where increased multi-lateral cooperation could enhance our efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting for Americans still missing from of the war.

In addition to firm commitments of continued cooperation from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, participants discussed the "last known alive" (LKA) investigation process and integration of Stony Beach (a Defense Intelligence Agency team that investigates live sighting reports associated with the Vietnam war) into the investigation



In October 2003 senior POW/MIA representatives from the United States, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos met at the first annual POW/MIA Consultations held in Bangkok, Thailand.



process. The majority of the discussion pertained to new ways to approach the archival research challenge, and we continue to engage our counterparts in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia on ways to address this long-standing problem. All the nations represented at the consultations agreed that we should lend permanence to the consultative forum by creating a Southeast Asia POW/MIA Committee that would meet annually and be responsible for developing and overseeing regional efforts to account for personnel missing from the war in Southeast Asia.

We have continued to work with the Ambassadors to the United States of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia to advance our policy initiatives. DPMO worked closely with the Lao embassy prior to and during the DPMO-sponsored trip of the Lao Vice Foreign Minister to Washington and worked closely with the Embassy of Vietnam prior to the visit of their Defense Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The accounting mission continues to be a very visible high national priority. In his National POW/MIA Recognition Day Proclamation and in remarks

on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and to veterans service organizations at their annual summer conventions, the President reaffirmed his, and the U.S. Government's commitment to the POW/MIA community, saying, "For two generations you [the veterans] have demanded a full accounting of Americans whose fate is undetermined, and my administration will not rest until that accounting is complete."

DPMO strives to fulfill the commitment by ensuring that U.S. officials who visit Vietnam raise the POW/MIA issue in discussions with their respective Vietnamese counterparts. Activities such as senior official visits to excavation sites and repatriation ceremonies demonstrate our Nation's resolve and commitment. More importantly when senior officials raise the POW/MIA issue, they demonstrate unanimity among all branches, departments, and agencies of the USG on this singularly important issue.

From an operational perspective, a significant event occurred on



"Achieving the fullest possible accounting of all our missing comrades will remain a top foreign policy of the Bush Administration."

—Colin Powell
Secretary of State

PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING—VIETNAM WAR



October 1, 2003, when Joint Task Force-Full Accounting (JTF-FA) and the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii, (CILHI) merged to form the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC). Designed to more effectively investigate cases in the field, and recover and identify the remains, JPAC undertook a worldwide mission in support of achieving the fullest possible accounting from all wars. The level of effort JPAC expends for any conflict anywhere in the world will remain at, or exceed, pre-merger levels. Professionally run field operations and scientific integrity of the identification process will remain the hallmark of the new organization.

Since the end of the Vietnam War, the USG has repatriated and identified the remains of 711 Americans lost during that conflict. We continue our efforts to account for those still missing, focusing special attention to resolve the fates of those Americans for whom we have live sighting reports, and for those who were last known to be alive or in proximity to capture by enemy forces.



Admiral Thomas Fargo, Commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, and Brigadier General Montague "Que" Winfield, Commander, JPAC, unfurl JPAC's new colors during the ceremony activating the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command on October 1, 2003.

CASUALTY RESOLUTION

DPMO analysts continue to investigate the last known alive cases, which receive priority attention in the office and in the field. At a February meeting in DPMO, a panel of flag officers reviewed analytical recommendations that were the joint product of DPMO and JTF-FA analysts. After reviewing the evidence in each case, the panel unanimously confirmed that five missing Americans who, when last seen during the Vietnam War, were known to be alive in close proximity to or held captive by enemy forces, had, in fact, died as a result of their incidents of loss. We continue to pursue all 104 remaining LKA cases actively – 35 in Vietnam, 54 in Laos, and 15 in Cambodia.

As in past years, DPMO analysts played a crucial role in ensuring investigators have the most reliable information possible as they pursue cases in Southeast Asia. Regularly scheduled case coordination conferences, where working level analysts from DPMO, JPAC, Stony Beach, and the Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory (LSEL) meet to discuss cases, are critical to recommending investigative priorities. In two conferences this year, accounting community analysts discussed and recommended the next steps in cases involving more than 550 Americans.

Russian cooperation, through the U.S.-Joint Commission on POW/MIAs, continues to improve our research on the Vietnam War. The Russians have passed to the U.S. side excerpts from 356 combat reports on the

PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING—VIETNAM WAR

shoot down of American aircraft over North Vietnam. DPMO analysts have analyzed these reports, which were taken from still-classified Soviet documents to which the U.S. does not have direct access, and where possible, correlated them to actual cases involving U.S. losses in Vietnam during the war. A number of U.S. officials have pressed the Russians to declassify their Vietnam War documents so that American researchers might gain direct access to the materials. A number of senior Russian officials now support the declassification initiative.

In 2003, DPMO researchers interviewed 125 Soviet veterans of the Vietnam War. The interviews occurred in nine cities of

the former Soviet Union and involved 366 days on the road. The Vietnam War Working Group continued to strive to improve and expand its interview program in the former Soviet Union, contacting numerous Russian, Belarusian, and Ukrainian veterans groups, Russian universities, documentary filmmakers, and public service organizations to broaden its contacts with former Soviet military veterans of the war in Southeast Asia. A major objective in 2003 was to obtain access, for interview purposes, to former KGB officers who served in North Vietnam during the war or who were in positions where they should have been aware of wartime KGB activities in Southeast Asia.



Congressman Sam Johnson presses the case for access to Soviet records on the interrogation of American Vietnam War POWs with Russian General Major Konstantin Golumbovskiy at a meeting in Moscow with the Russian side of the Joint Commission in January 2003.

VIETNAM



In March 2002, President Bush determined,

“. . . based on all information available to the USG, that the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [was] fully cooperating in good faith with the United States in the following four areas related to achieving the fullest possible accounting for Americans unaccounted for as a result of the Vietnam War:

- 1) Resolving discrepancy cases, live sightings, and field activities;
- 2) Recovering and repatriating American remains;
- 3) Accelerating efforts to provide documents that will help lead to the fullest possible accounting of prisoners of war and missing in action (POW/MIAs); and,
- 4) Providing further assistance in implementing trilateral investigations with Laos.”



The accounting mission continues to be a very visible high national priority. In his national POW/MIA Recognition Day Proclamation and remarks on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and to veterans service organizations at their annual summer conventions, the President reaffirmed his, and the government's, "continuing personal commitment to the entire POW/MIA community, especially to the immediate families, relatives, friends and supporters of these brave individuals."

PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING—VIETNAM WAR

However, he went on to say:

"As we look to further strengthen cooperation, Vietnam's unilateral provision of POW/MIA-related documents and records should be improved, focused initially on archival data pertaining to Americans captured, missing, or killed in areas of Laos and Cambodia under wartime Vietnamese control. Vietnam should also focus greater attention on locating and providing information on discrepancy cases, with priority on those last known alive in captivity or in immediate proximity to capture, and to locating and repatriating the remains of those who died while in Vietnamese control that have not yet been returned."

"Finally, in making this determination, I wish to reaffirm my continuing personal commitment to the entire POW/MIA community, especially to the immediate families, relatives, friends, and supporters of these brave individuals, and to reconfirm that achieving the fullest possible accounting of our prisoners of war and missing

in action remains one of the most important priorities in our relations with Vietnam."

Vietnam has continued to cooperate in accounting for missing Americans. As in past years, officials allowed U.S. personnel access to witnesses and operational and tactical archives, and conducted numerous in-depth unilateral investigations that resulted in a number of valuable new leads. We continue, however, to believe that Vietnam is capable of greater unilateral action, especially in providing information regarding American losses in areas of Cambodia and Laos where their forces controlled or transited during the war.

During the summer, Mr. Jennings returned to Vietnam for additional talks with senior officials, including Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and others in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, National Defense and Public Security. While there, the Deputy Prime Minister endorsed an inter-ministerial archival research program

DPMO had been pursuing for more than a year. The program seeks access to POW/MIA-related documents that exist in the capital-area archives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, National Defense, and Public Security. Mr. Jennings also pushed for the use of a dedicated U.S. recovery vessel for future underwater recovery operations.

Each of our meetings in Hanoi stressed that the U.S. Government will not reduce its efforts until we reach the fullest possible accounting, a goal that will require a robust Vietnamese partnership. Vietnam's senior leadership promised us that they would continue to cooperate with us until we have completed our work.

In October, Mr. Jennings met with Vietnam's Foreign Minister, Nguyen Dy Nien during the Minister's visit to Hawaii. During this meeting, Foreign Minister Nien expressed his country's intentions to cooperate fully with the United States on the POW/MIA issue, his full support for our inter-ministerial archival research program, and "... willingness to begin addressing cases along the coastal areas of Vietnam."

.In November, DPMO hosted a visit by Vietnam's Defense Minister, Senior General Pham Van Tra, during the first visit by a Vietnam Defense Minister to the U.S. since the end of the war. In his talks with senior officials, including almost two hours of discussions with the Defense Minister, Mr. Jennings



Vietnam's Minister of National Defense Senior Lt. Gen. Pham Van Tra, accepts from Mr. Jerry Jennings a world globe in remembrance of the first-ever visit to DPMO by the Minister of Defense of Vietnam. The globe symbolizes the United States' worldwide efforts to account for Americans missing from past conflicts.

PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING—VIETNAM WAR

reiterated the need for Vietnam to provide more information, fulfill the requirements contained in the President's certification to Congress regarding their cooperation on the accounting issue, and implement the inter-ministerial archival research program. He also stressed the safety and operational benefits of using a U.S. recovery vessel for underwater recovery operations. In his response to this last point, General Tra said, "'Decision authority for this issue rests with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry of National Defense will support their decision."

Mr. Jennings' meetings in Hanoi, and his subsequent meetings with the Foreign and Defense Ministers, were encouraging; however, the burden remains on Vietnam to fulfill its pledges of cooperation.

In support of the U.S. initiative to interview senior Vietnamese wartime leaders, Southeast Asia experts identified eight Vietnamese, to include a chief military archivist, a southern military leader, a wartime

politician, and a Paris Peace Accords negotiator, for interview. A senior analyst also represented DPMO at technical talks in Hanoi, furthering the initiative to expand archival research in that nation. Following coordination on the proposal, analysts presented the draft inter-ministerial archival research proposal to the Government of Vietnam.

LAOS



DPMO worked closely with Lao officials to initiate new momentum in overcoming several long-standing challenges. The primary impediment to progress remains the backlog of almost 70 sites we have identified to excavate, but have yet to begin. The excavation rate continues at approximately 10 per year. The slow rate of excavations is due in large measure to host government restrictions as well as U.S. manpower and resource constraints. Our research and investigative efforts continue to identify new sites to excavate, with the rate of sites identified

outstripping the number the Lao allow us to excavate. Overall, the backlog of sites and the newly identified sites represent about 120 cases.

DPMO analysts supported technical operation discussions during Lao Consultative Talks in May that urged an easing of personnel limits on the number of Americans permitted in country during investigations and a relaxation of the North-South Protocol. Earlier in the year, a senior analyst briefed four Laotian provincial governors on analytical research and investigative methods we use to resolve the cases of unaccounted-for Americans. He highlighted our belief that Lao cooperation at all levels is critical to the success of the program.

DPMO's Southeast Asia Division research analyst, Soutchay Vongsavanh, translated a

36-page excerpt of a book Stony Beach investigators obtained that provided new witnesses and links to Lao units involved in American war losses. He identified a witness, known to him, who is likely to have POW/MIA information.

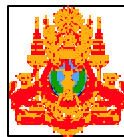
DPMO hosted Vice Foreign Minister Phongsavath's visit to its offices and the Department of State in August. During his meetings with the Vice Foreign Minister, Mr. Jennings proposed an archival plan and received support for the initiative. The Government of Laos demonstrated its support by meeting our request to appoint a representative for the issue. Additionally, Mr. Jennings urged Phongsavath to communicate the importance of flexibility in recovery operations as the surest way to alleviate the excavation backlog.



Minister Phongsavath and DASD Jennings at their August meeting.

PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING—VIETNAM WAR

CAMBODIA



U.S. Government relations with the Government of Cambodia remain close and productive with respect to the POW/MIA issue. Cambodian officials fully support our mission and are willing to assist in expanding our operations. They permit us to excavate sites as we find them. Officials are forthcoming with archival information, readily allow interviews, and grant our investigators unfettered access throughout the country with little or no advance coordination. Significantly, Cambodia allows a permanent U.S. Stony Beach representative to live and work in country with virtually unlimited freedom of action to pursue his mission. In addition, Cambodian officials have made repeated entreaties to their Vietnamese counterparts for information that could be helpful to U.S. efforts to account for

our missing personnel in Cambodia. As in the past, DPMO's Cambodian area analyst supported in-country technical meetings, working with both JPAC and Stony Beach to enhance accounting efforts.

Mr. Jennings visited Cambodia in January to review the status of accounting efforts, to thank the government and its people for their cooperation in accounting for Americans still missing, and to seek new ways to improve our efforts. Senior officials, including Prime Minister Hun Sen, conveyed to the DPMO delegation their continued support for our accounting mission. Following his visit, Mr. Jennings reported to the DoD leadership that, "Nowhere else in the world is cooperation with our [accounting] efforts more substantial, more complete, or more helpful than in the Kingdom of Cambodia."



Franklin Damann, a USACILHI anthropologist, briefs Mr. Jennings and Ambassador Ray in January 2003 as they visit the excavation of the crash site of a Navy OH-1b lost in the spring of 1969 in Svay Rieng Province, Cambodia. The USACILHI team successfully identified the crash site and were recovering pieces of wreckage.



Mr. Jennings presents Sgt Stacey Watson, a USACILHI Khmer linguist, with a command coin and thanks her for her work to help account for Americans still missing in Southeast Asia. Sgt Watson was serving as an interpreter at the excavation site in Svay Reing Province.

PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING—COLD WAR



Russian Rear Admiral (retired) Boris Novyy is well known to Cold War families. He uses his connections in the former USSR to gain access to important archives, to witnesses of Cold War incidents, and to military headquarters in the Russian Federation to follow up on leads about American losses in the Cold War

COLD WAR

The U.S.-Joint Commission on POW/MIAs continues to make progress on the 10 Cold War shoot down cases within its purview. In 2003, the Russians agreed to permit U.S. research in archives of the Russian Far East where many of the Cold War losses of American reconnaissance aircraft occurred. This painstaking work, as well as surveys of suspected burial sites in Kaliningrad and off the Russian northern coast in the Barents Sea, has benefited from the commitment and persistence of a dedicated Russian researcher—Rear Admiral (retired) Boris Novyy.

In October 2003, representatives from DPMO and JPAC met in Beijing with their China Ministry of Foreign Affairs counterparts to lay the ground work for recovery operations in China in 2004. One of those recovery operations included a Cold War loss from 1952, a C-47 crash site in the Jilin Province of Northeast China.

Information retrieved in 2003 from Russian archives in Podolsk helped DPMO negotiators gain Chinese support for a CILHI site survey of a 1956 Cold War crash site in China.



COLD WAR



U.S. ~ RUSSIA JOINT COMMISSION



SOVIET SKETCH OF B-29

RUSSIA



RUSSIAN EXCAVATION



REPATRIATION CEREMONY



RUSSIAN GRAVESITE



PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING—KOREAN WAR

KOREAN WAR

"...the Korean War will not really end for us until every American is brought home or accounted for. . . .We owe them that. We owe it to their families. We owe it to the brave men and women who go into combat for us today. And we will keep our promise."

—Paul Wolfowitz
Deputy Secretary of Defense
July 27, 2003

NORTH KOREA



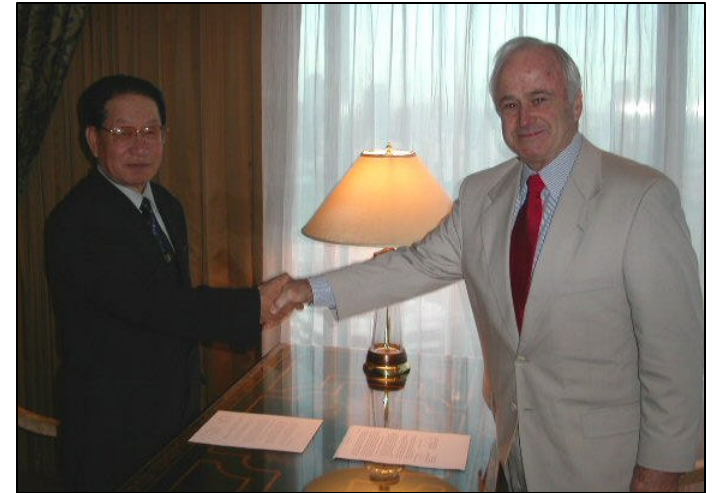
Following on the heels of successful Joint Recovery Operations (JROs) during 2002, DPMO invited North Korea to participate in talks to discuss JROs for 2003. We initially planned the talks for December 14-16, 2002, in Bangkok, Thailand; however, North Korean officials failed to respond to

DPMO's invitation and, consequently, the talks did not take place until July 2003.

The July talks led to an arrangement to conduct two JROs in North Korea beginning in August and ending in October 2003, with teams working concurrently in Unsan (western) and Changjin/Chosin (eastern) counties.

On July 11, Mr. Jennings and Colonel General Li Chan Bok signed the arrangement that included new provisions for enhanced safety measures.

Joint recovery teams conducted the two JROs between August and October 2003, working in both Unsan and Changjin (Chosin) counties. They recovered eight sets of probable U.S. remains and, on October 28,



Mr. Jennings and Colonel General Li Chan Bok, the Korean People's Army Panmunjom Liaison Mission, and senior negotiator for North Korea during U.S./DPRK negotiations for joint recovery operations in North Korea agreeing in July 2003 to resume joint recovery operations later that summer.

repatriated them to Yokota Air Base, Japan, where United Nations Command Korea honored their return in a repatriation ceremony. The remains were then flown to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, where United States Pacific Command conducted a repatriation ceremony before JPAC representatives took custody of the remains to begin identifying them.

During the first JRO, DPMO representatives observed and reported on a key exercise to test emergency medical evacuation procedures, commonly known as a MEDEVAC exercise, involving the transport of a simulated casualty from deep inside North Korea to Panmunjom. The exercise was successful, a key indicator of North Korean cooperation during the 2003 recovery missions.

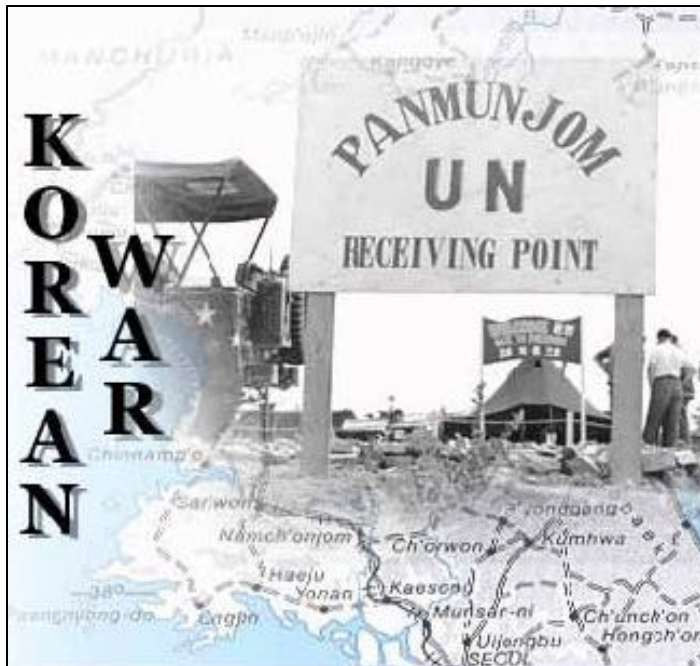
DPMO analysts researched a variety of sources to develop lists of prison camp cemeteries, United Nations cemeteries, and battlefield and air loss sites to recommend for search and recovery operations. Research sources

included official unit war diaries, government and commercial works by military historians—to include personal papers—records at JPAC, and air search case records. Our analysts also consulted with Korean War veterans.

During the JROs, DPMO analysts directly responded to casualty questions from the search and recovery teams in the field. Following the JROs, research continued, focusing on answering JPAC queries related to the recoveries from the Unsan and Chosin battlefields and a November-December 1950 POW evacuation route to Pukchin Tarigol near the Yalu. Including the eight sets of remains recovered this year, joint recovery teams have recovered and repatriated 186 sets of remains since operations started in 1996.



PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING—KOREAN WAR



A poster commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Korean War. The sign for the United Nations' POW receiving center at Panmunjom can be seen on the right.

In November 2003, the DPMO-led U.S. Government negotiating team returned to Bangkok to discuss joint recovery operations in North Korea for 2004 with the North Korean delegation. During the talks, the U.S. side focused on establishing a process for resolving reports

alleging that living Americans may have been held in North Korea after the war, enhancing the safety of U.S. recovery teams, and improving the remains recovery process. On November 15, following two days of negotiations, both sides signed an arrangement calling for five JROs between April and October 2004 with teams working concurrently in Unsan and Changjin (Chosin) counties. One noteworthy improvement in the arrangement was that it provided for both unilateral and joint (combined) investigations in advance of the JROs.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA



Working closely with JPAC researchers, DPMO has sought to work more proactively on potential recovery targets in the Republic of Korea (ROK), or South Korea as it is commonly referred to. DPMO and JPAC analysts jointly researched holdings at JPAC and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) that involved the review of loss locations for the 450 U.S. unknown soldiers recovered in South Korea from 1950 to 1955.

New leads on remains locations in South Korea develop periodically, so we undertook this review to correlate previous recovery work that occurred between 1950 and 1955 to reports from new leads. This will enable teams operating in South Korea to project the number of remains we might locate in any reported site more accurately.

A CILHI investigative team deployed to the Republic of Korea in May 2003. The team investigated 21 cases in order to develop information for unresolved cases involving unaccounted-for Americans. They investigated cases throughout the country from 30 miles south of the demilitarized zone to the country's southern tip.

They did not recover any human remains during the field activity.

CHINA



During 2003, the U.S. Government continued negotiations to gain access to archives in the People's Republic of China (PRC). Working with China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) we sought to find avenues to engage the People's Liberation Army (PLA), which controls access to Korean War military archival materials.

Mr. Jennings met with Chinese officials in Beijing in March 2003, focusing on personnel accounting initiatives ranging from remains recovery operations to archival



Mr. Jennings met Chinese officials in Beijing in March 2003 to discuss personnel accounting initiatives ranging from remains recovery operations to archival research. He proposed several innovative methods to enhance cooperation between the U.S. and Chinese governments on the personnel accounting issue.

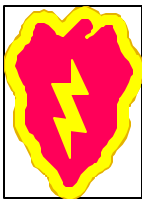
PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING—KOREAN WAR

research, and proposed innovative methods to enhance cooperation between the U.S. and Chinese Governments on the personnel accounting issue. He is also working to hold regular meetings with Chinese Government officials in Beijing and Washington, D.C. During the March visit, DPMO requested information on several cases, among them losses of a B-26 and F-86 in 1952.

On October 13, 2003, DPMO and JPAC representatives met with Chinese officials in Beijing to plan 2004 recovery operations and pursue archival research initiatives there. Additionally, DPMO presented nine archival research initiatives requesting the Chinese review military records on our behalf for information that might assist in determining possible POW burial locations and crash sites for further investigation.

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

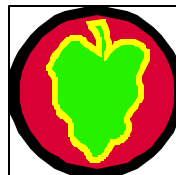
DPMO expanded its initiative to contact all Korean War veterans knowing of U.S. losses to new venues in 2003. Since the program began in 1996, DPMO analysts have interviewed over 1,500 Korean War veterans, including discussions with more than one-third of all living Korean War U.S. POW returnees. This past year analysts added veterans of the 29th Infantry Regiment and the 5th Regimental Combat Team, units that saw heavy action during the war. DPMO analysts also met with the historians of the 13th Bomb Squadron, the Army Chapter of the Chosin Few International Association, the 1st Cavalry Division, the 2nd Infantry Division, the 1st Marine Division, the 24th Infantry Division, and the 24th Infantry Regiment of the 25th Infantry Division. For the eighth time, we attended the Korean War Ex-POW and Tiger Survivors Association reunions. Veterans



*25th Infantry
Division*



*1st Cavalry
Division*



*24th Infantry
Division*



*2nd Infantry
Division*



*1st Marine
Division*

are often able to provide eyewitness information on incidents of loss for men still unaccounted for, to include loss and burial locations.



In 2000, the Library of Congress (LoC) began collecting oral histories from veterans of all wars. With the full support of the LoC, analysts began a systematic review of their Korean War Oral History Program holdings in 2003. By year's end, we had reviewed 5,000 pages of transcripts of veterans' interviews, enabling us to add pertinent combat loss information to our own databases.

ANALYSTS EXCHANGE INFORMATION

Northeast Asia analysts met with CILHI analysts working the Korean War

remains recovery and identification issue in a comprehensive information exchange conference in February. At this meeting, our analysts furnished the results of their research in archives on the U.S. mainland over the previous year. Each side shared results from interviews they collected during the year. CILHI briefed conference participants on the results of its JRO work on the Korean Peninsula. Jointly, we developed and refined potential loss populations related to the various groups of remains the North Koreans handed over between 1990 and 1994. We have yet to identify more than 198 of those remains.

A combined archival research and analysis project involving DPMO and CILHI personnel came to fruition in 2003. In 1999, we developed a list of unknown remains from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific that our forensics experts might be able to



National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific

PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING—KOREAN WAR

identify using the latest advances in technology. Research into files at NARA and JPAC, along with oral history interviews, yielded enough information to support exhuming a small number of remains from the cemetery. Of the four Korean War unknowns CILHI exhumed in September 1999, they identified the first man, a U.S. Marine, in 2003.

KOREAN WAR ARCHIVAL EFFORTS

DPMO analysts and archival researchers worked together on several archival research initiatives. Analysts provided specific collection requirements for researchers who periodically visit the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis and the NARA College Park,

Maryland facility. Our researchers reviewed U.S. Army Morning Report files to verify information on hundreds of cases. Captured North Korean documents from the early war period and the war crimes records on POW debriefings revealed details on dozens of POW deaths. In April, analysts reviewed the personal papers of Combat Historian Lieutenant Colonel Roy Appleman, which focused on South Korea and the Chosin Reservoir. These contained information on dozens of interviews of Chosin Reservoir survivors that supported JRO teams operating in North Korea later in the year.

The U.S.-Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC) continued its



One stack where documents are stored at the Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defense at Podolsk, Russia. American researchers working for the Joint Commission conduct research in this archive eight days out of every month, reading and copying thousands of pages of Soviet combat reports from the Korean War, many of which contain important, fate-related information about American pilots lost in combat missions over North Korea.

research in the Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defense at Podolsk, on the outskirts of Moscow. In 2003, Commission researchers reviewed thousands of pages of Soviet documents, acquiring 1,347 pages from the Korean War that pertain directly to losses of American combat aircraft during the conflict. From this research, 59 American families of missing Servicemen received information about the fates of their missing loved ones. Since beginning its work in this very important archive, the USRJC has recovered approximately 32,000 pages of material clarifying the fates of 263 missing American servicemen from the Korean War.

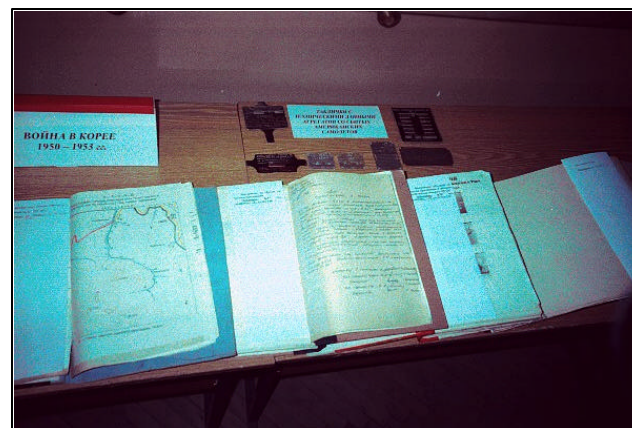
Some information retrieved in 2003 from Russian archives formed the foundation for work with other countries. For example, DPMO used

materials collected in Russia's Central Military Archives in Podolsk to gain Chinese support to work at a Korean War-era crash site in China.

In 2003, Korean War analysts from the USRJC spent a total of 413 days traveling, visiting 60 cities of the former Soviet Union, and interviewing 138 Soviet veterans of the Korean War. A significant effort to interview former servicemen took place in Ukraine as well, where our researchers interviewed 92 Korean War veterans in 44 cities. The Commission also implemented a vigorous advertising campaign in local newspapers and on television that generated numerous additional leads. Efforts are now underway to establish similar cooperative ventures with other states in the region.



DASD Jennings views an exhibit set up for him at the Central Archives of the Russian Ministry of Defense at Podolsk. The Russians laid out valuable documents from World War II and the Korean War, demonstrating the wealth of historically important materials held at this archive.



Russian officials demonstrated for DASD Jennings the reason the Podolsk archive is so important to America's accounting mission. Included in the exhibit were Korean War photographs of crashed American aircraft and photographs of the remains of the crew members, maps and other personal effects of captured or deceased U.S. pilots, detailed reports by Soviet pilots of their shoot down of American aircraft, including gun camera photography, data plates taken by Soviet military personnel from crashed American aircraft, and other information useful in clarifying the fates of missing American pilots from the Korean War.

PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING—WORLD WAR II

WORLD WAR II

In the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2000, Congress directed that, “The Secretary of Defense shall make every reasonable effort to search for, recover and identify the remains of United States servicemen lost in the Pacific theater of operations during World War II (including in New Guinea) while engaged in flight operations.” DPMO has expanded Congress’s directive to include “reasonable efforts” to achieve the fullest possible accounting for all World War II missing.

DPMO demonstrated that the personnel accounting mission is truly

a global one and that the Administration’s commitment to this issue remains a high priority through its focused efforts to account for missing personnel from World War II. This year, Mr. Jennings traveled to Australia to meet with senior Australian representatives from the War Graves Commission and other key archives. We believe Australian records may contain information that could aid us in our efforts to account for Americans missing throughout Asia, primarily during World War II. Additionally, the delegation traveled to Papua New Guinea to meet with senior government officials and thank local villagers who successfully rescued CILHI team members involved in a helicopter crash there.



PERSONNEL MISSING WORLD WAR II (PM WWII) DATABASE

DPMO adopted the concept and the phased development of a database for personnel missing from World War II (PMWWII), similar to existing databases for other conflicts. Currently, over 78,000 American personnel are unaccounted for from that war. DPMO anticipates that it will complete the PMWWII, developed in three phases over two years, in late 2005.

In 2003, DPMO archival researchers copied thousands of pages of the

American Graves Registration Service's *Roster of Military Personnel Whose Remains Were Not Recovered, 1951-1954*, and began entering data from those records into an electronic format that serves as the baseline for the PMWWII. When complete, this database will be the significant first step in creating a comprehensive plan to research World War II missing personnel. It will enable the Government to allocate resources for investigations and recoveries accurately and effectively, and will be the key analytic tool for World War II personnel accounting researchers.



U.S. Navy Chief Petty Officer Dennis Friedbauer of DPMO's Joint Commission Support Directorate displays wing panels from a U.S. B-24L, shot down over the Hungarian village of Gordisa on March 12, 1944. One crewman is still unaccounted for from this aircraft.

PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING—WORLD WAR II



Lieutenant Colonel Yuriy Plotnikov and General Major Golumbovskiy, Russian members of the team, examine the wreckage of a World War II-era U.S. Navy PV-1 aircraft that crashed at a remote location on the Kamchatka Peninsula in the Russian Far East.

First excavated in 2001, skeletal remains of a WWII PV-1 crew were recovered, identified and on Nov. 20, buried as a group at Arlington National Cemetery.



In 2003, CILHI identified the remains of three crew members, and made a group identification of the remaining four members, of the seven-man crew of a U.S. Navy PV-1 "Ventura," which crashed on the Soviet Kamchatka Peninsula on August 20, 1944. Analysts located this crash site on the slope of a volcano in a remote region of the peninsula, and CILHI excavated the site in August-September 2001.



WORLD WAR II WORKING GROUP HARD AT WORK

In 2003, the USRJC very actively pursued World War II loss cases. Members of the Commission's World War II Working Group spent 317 days visiting 11 different cities in Russia and Central Europe, during which its investigators interviewed 45 foreign citizens, officials, and veterans. Members of the working group collected witness statements, researched holdings in state archives, and surveyed crash and burial sites.

Last summer, Commission representatives and CILHI forensic specialists, surveyed two aircraft crash sites, one in the Russian Far East and one in Hungary. We believe that at least two American World War II aircraft crash sites in Hungary contain human remains. JPAC is

considering near-term recovery operations at both sites.

The USRJC also continued its work on World War II crash and burial sites in Poland, Slovenia, and the Czech Republic. A number of these cases suggest a very real prospect of resolving the fates of missing Americans.

Commission researchers obtained first-ever access to German documents that the Soviet Red Army captured during World War II. The files, held in a Russian archive in Moscow, contain information about the fates of American servicemen who were buried in German-held areas the Red Army liberated. The Commission also entered into a contract with the Russian Military Medical Archives in St. Petersburg to research the files of all Soviet military medical units from the World War II era, to clarify the

PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING—WORLD WAR II

fate of American servicemen treated by Soviet doctors during the war.

CHINA INITIATIVES

On October 13, 2003, DPMO and JPAC representatives met with Chinese officials in Beijing to plan 2004 recovery operations and pursue archival research initiatives. Operations discussed for 2004 include excavating a World War II crash site associated with the loss of three crewmembers aboard a C-46 aircraft in Tibet.

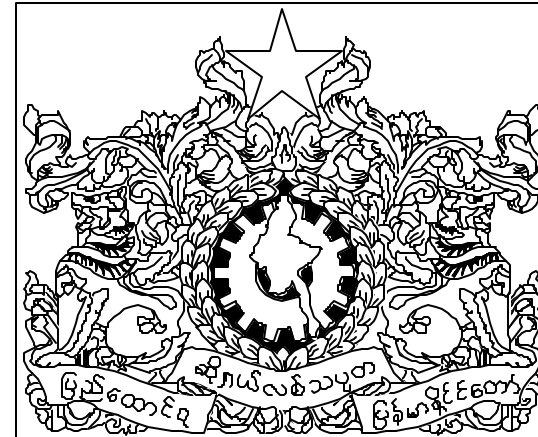
BURMA INITIATIVE

In 2002, work by DPMO and CILHI analysts resulted in the first recovery operation in

Burma in March 2003. Mr. Jennings visited the site during the recovery operation and met again with senior Burmese leadership to impress on them the importance of this humanitarian mission. To ensure future recovery operations would build on lessons learned from the initial recovery, CILHI trained several Burmese field specialists on U.S. investigation and recovery techniques. The Burmese received the training well, and it served as a solid foundation for technical talks held in October. With the full cooperation of the U.S. Country Team in Burma and the Burmese Government, a JPAC team surveyed potential loss sites and interviewed witnesses during November in preparation for another joint recovery operation in early 2004.



A recovery site deep in the jungles of Burma.



Burmese workers clear the crash site.

COMMUNICATIONS

One of the most important aspects of DPMO's mission is to communicate its work to those we serve. Previous sections of this annual report addressed the work done analyzing wartime records; interviewing veterans; negotiating with foreign governments, wartime leaders and ordinary villagers; locating archived materials; and formulating U.S. Government policies that maximize mission success. The success of our technical work affects a wide segment of the American and international populations – far wider than most would assume. Families and comrades of the missing, organizations representing both, current active duty and reserve members of the U.S. military, and Members of Congress all maintain a keen interest in how effectively we perform our mission. In communicating with families, veterans and the American public we continued to refine and improve our effort.

In 2003, helping POW/MIA families acquire factual and timely answers remained one of our most important activities. DPMO wrote nearly 500 letters to family members about their loved ones' cases, and reviewed with family members scores of case files from the Cold War, Korean War, and Vietnam War. Responding to family inquiries with complete, credible, and timely answers helps enhance their understanding of and support for our



Hon Jerry D. Jennings and Ms. JoAnne Shirley unveil the 2003 POW/MIA Recognition Day Poster at the 34th Annual Meeting of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia.

personnel accounting efforts. With the help of our analysis section, we answered hundreds of inquiries by Congress, veterans groups, concerned citizens, and other government entities interested in the accounting issue.

ANNUAL EVENTS

On September 19, Americans across the world observed National POW/MIA Recognition Day on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools, and veterans facilities. Unfortunately, the inclement weather associated with Hurricane Isabel forced us to cancel the Pentagon ceremony, but other ceremonies were held

across the Nation and on U.S. military installations worldwide. DPMO distributed more than 120,000 National POW/MIA Recognition Day posters to military services, other U.S. Government entities, veterans groups, and family organizations. We also made the poster available for download from the DPMO Web site.

DPMO coordinated government briefings for families of the missing from the war in Vietnam in conjunction with the 34th Annual Meeting of the National League of Families in Washington, D.C. In June, officials from every corner of the personnel accounting community presented briefings to 210 family



National POW/MIA Recognition Day came to a close with the ringing of the NYSE bell by the Hon. Jerry D. Jennings, Sept. 19. Air Force casualty officers and NYSE representatives flank him. On the far left is Stephen Stratton, son of Colonel Charles W. Stratton, MIA from the Vietnam War.

PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING—COMMUNICATIONS

members and concerned citizens. Government participants included representatives of DPMO, the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL), CILHI, JTF-FA, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory (LSEL), and the casualty offices of the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and the Department of State. Speakers included senior policy officials, analysts, and scientists.

DPMO also coordinated annual briefings to 474 Korean/Cold War family members July 25 – 26. We expanded the program to a two-day event to accommodate the large audience. Each day family members received a half day of briefings that covered all aspects of the accounting mission, followed by case

specific, one-on-one sessions between family members and government experts. We developed the agenda based on input from family organizations and input from results of the previous year's questionnaires. The Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, Peter Rodman, provided the keynote address in which he reiterated the Administration's commitment to account for those missing from the Korean War. We scheduled the meeting to coincide with the Korean War Armistice Commemoration events held on July 27. As a result, many family members were able to attend the armistice ceremonies at the Korean War Memorial and a concert honoring Korean War veterans and their families.



*Peter W. Rodman
Assistant Secretary of Defense
for International Security Affairs*



Korean War Memorial

TRAVEL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO FAMILIES

Each year DPMO prepares and implements the Secretary of Defense's guidance on travel assistance, also known as *COIN ASSIST*. The Government has extended this opportunity to the families of the missing from the Vietnam War for many years. In 2003, the second year the program was offered to Korean and Cold War families, nearly 500 of them took advantage of the program that pays the airfare to and from the annual briefings.

FAMILY UPDATES

In 2003, DPMO organized and sponsored eight Family Updates at cities across the country. The updates afforded families direct access to a team of personnel accounting specialists at the meetings. Families also had opportunities to meet with other POW/MIA families. In response to family member suggestions, we added separate and concurrent briefing sessions for Southeast Asia and Korean/Cold War families in order to maximize the time the families had to hear about efforts specific to their interests. The revised format has been a great success.



More than 140 family members met with U.S. Government officials at the Detroit Family Update held on April 26, 2003. It was one of the largest updates of the year.

PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING—COMMUNICATIONS



Lao Analyst Lt Col Dian Corneliussen-James meets with a family member at the Houston Family Update in March 2003.

Other changes to the program include a question and answer period for each conflict-specific session and an Internet demonstration showing families how to conduct their own research on the Web. More than 800 family members took advantage of the Family Update program in 2003. Average attendance per update has increased from 29 family members in 1995 to 125 family members in 2003.

ANALYTIC SUPPORT TO FAMILIES

DPMO analysts continued to support meetings relatives of missing Americans attended. Analysts briefed families at every

Family Update, and at National League of Families regional meetings around the country. Our analysts prepared over 300 case summaries for families attending the annual government briefings, in addition to the hundreds they prepared in support of the monthly Family Update program. DPMO analysts were available and prepared to discuss individual cases with family members to answer their many questions. Additionally, case experts met families and service casualty representatives who visited DPMO for detailed briefings on specific losses and investigative efforts.



CONGRESSIONAL OUTREACH

To increase Congressional awareness, knowledge and support for families of unaccounted-for Americans and the personnel accounting mission, DPMO implemented a new initiative in August 2003 to raise congressional awareness concerning the issue. Before each Family Update, the DPMO External Relations staff sent letters to each House and Senate member's district office located in the area where we were holding the update. The letter informed them of the Family Update, its purpose, and the number of families within their constituency that might attend. We followed our written notices with telephone contacts and personal visits to the district offices the day prior to the update. During each visit, DPMO representatives met with and briefed the district/state staff of the Member of Congress on the personnel accounting community

and its mission. We also personally invited the Member to attend the update. Responses from Congressional offices were supportive, and our efforts are giving elected officials and their staffs a more comprehensive understanding of the accounting mission and how DPMO can assist them in better representing their constituents.

Our analysts played an integral role in briefing Members of Congress seeking substantive data on various aspects of Vietnam and Korean War accounting efforts. Analysts provided one Member with detailed information on 16 years of U.S. Government access to Vietnamese archives, stressing that while we have received significant documents, there is evidence to support a belief that other significant documents should exist. We also briefed the Congressman on planned archival initiatives as well as our interest in using a U.S.

PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING—COMMUNICATIONS

recovery ship to recover remains off the coast of Vietnam.

At the request of Representative Rob Simmons (R-CT), a DPMO analyst spoke to several hundred high school students, veterans, and citizens in Waterford, Connecticut, regarding the case of a local U.S. Army pilot missing in Vietnam. The Congressman had previously accompanied U.S. teams in Vietnam as they investigated his constituent's loss incident.

VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

DPMO continued its veterans contact program aggressively, and delivered updates on the personnel accounting mission to each of the conventions of the major veterans service organizations. Through these efforts, we were able to reach

millions of America's veterans either directly or indirectly through their national conventions or their membership publications. We also continued our Veterans Update programs in each of the cities where we hosted Family Update programs.

NATIONAL AND LOCAL NEWS MEDIA

Accounting for America's missing remains a subject of great interest to media at both the national and local levels. Through years of developing professional association and contact with national media representatives, DPMO continued to enjoy a good response when placing stories of national interest.

National Public Radio (NPR) invited us to appear twice in 2003 to recount for listeners the worldwide commitment to bring America's



Larry Greer, Director of Public Affairs at DPMO, is interviewed by KOMO radio during the family update in Seattle. KOMO is one of the largest stations in the Pacific northwest.

warriors home. The first program generated considerable listener interest, and NPR invited us to return to field listener call-in questions. C-SPAN took note of several of our national news release announcements, and featured Mr. Jennings on a morning call-in program from Washington D.C. The BBC invited him to appear on a late night (in England) call-in radio program about our mission. Throughout the year, we helped ABC, CBS, CNN, Fox Network, and NBC develop stories on accounting for missing Americans.

As a result of our contact work with international outlets, we have been featured in nationally-distributed wire service articles from the Associated Press, to Reuters, to Agence France-Presse, to the Russian news media. The Wall Street Journal featured our mission in a wide-ranging story that reached millions of readers.

These millions of readers and viewers gained a glimpse of the commitment of the entire 600-person team that is dedicated to our singular mission across the globe.

Equally important to local readers and listeners are the media outlets in their hometowns. We worked with reporters in each of the cities in which we sponsored Family and Veterans Updates, and placed stories there that linked our mission to local families.

OTHER OUTREACH EFFORTS

In April, DoD officials from DPMO, CILHI, and AFDIL briefed students, veterans, and concerned citizens at Morgan State University on the identification process and the U.S. Government's efforts to account for our missing from the Korean War.

PERSONNEL ACCOUNTING—COMMUNICATIONS



DPMO Internet Logo

INTERNET

The DPMO web site (www.dtic.mil/dpmo) continued to attract readers in large numbers. We found that not only do news media representatives subscribe to automatic distribution of our news releases over the Internet, but they use our releases to broaden stories with connections to local families and veterans. We continued to average approximately 100,000 "hits" (requests for page downloads) weekly on our web site, with the highest weekly request number being 386,000.

DECLASSIFICATION OF INFORMATION

DPMO continued to support a broad range of requirements to declassify documents and respond to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests from the families and the public in conjunction with other statutory, executive order, and policy requirements directing the release of information. In 2003, we processed 459 requests for documentation that amounted to 93,262 pages. Included in this figure are Privacy Act, Security Review, and Mandatory Declassification Review requests. One FOIA response totaled over

71,000 pages; and we will submit it to the Library of Congress (LoC) for their collection in 2004.

We continued reviewing and electronically processing all Search and Recovery log records from the Vietnam War. We will also send these pages to the LoC collection in 2004. Additionally we processed 15,000 pages of documentation this year and electronically transmitted them to the LoC, where the public can access the information. There are over 975,000 pages of POW/MIA-related material in the LoC Southeast Asia POW/MIA Database for public access.

We have continued the electronic file conversion of our holdings for inclusion into the RetrievalWare system. RetrievalWare is a keyword and conflict searchable database in which DPMO researchers can quickly find information on a wide variety of POW/MIA-related subjects. During the year, we scanned 37,223 pages electronically.



2003 POW/MIA Recognition Day Poster

PERSONNEL RECOVERY—OVERVIEW



BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq - An Air Force HH-60G Pavehawk from the 64th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron deploys pararescue-men. (USAF photo by SSgt. Aaron Allmon II)

PERSONNEL RECOVERY

Personnel Recovery is the sum of all military, civil, and political efforts to obtain the release or recovery of personnel from uncertain or hostile environments and denied areas. Personnel recovery includes, but is not limited to, combat search and rescue; joint combat search and rescue; multinational (coalition) and interagency recovery efforts; Code of Conduct training (includes Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape); non-conventional assisted recovery; personnel recovery research, development, testing, and evaluation, experimentation, and interoperability; and operational POW/MIA Matters (includes captivity support, repatriation, debriefing, and re-integration).



A night time recovery as seen through the eyes of night vision goggles.

Personnel recovery may occur through military action, action by non-governmental or private organizations, other U.S. Government-approved action, and diplomatic initiatives, or through any combination of those options. The success of personnel recovery efforts depends on the coherent integration of all recovery capabilities while focusing on the three target audiences: the isolated individual, the recovery force, and commanders and staffs.

Success also depends on deliberate planning, proper preparation and training, realistic rehearsals and exercises, and command and control of the networked battlespace.

PERSONNEL RECOVERY—TRANSFORMATION

TRANSFORMATION OF PERSONNEL RECOVERY

"We need every nickel, we need every innovation, every good idea to strengthen and transform our military. A new idea overlooked might well be the next threat overlooked. If we do not fix what is broken and encourage what is good and what works, if we do not transform, our enemies will surely find new ways to attack us."

*—Donald Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
Town Hall Meeting*

At the direction of the Secretary of Defense, the Department of Defense (DoD) is transforming itself so that it can deter and defend against the emerging threats of the 21st century. It addresses three major areas: how we do business inside DoD, how we work with our

interagency and multinational partners, and how we fight. As Vice Admiral A. K. Cebrowski, Director, of the Office of Force Transformation in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) said, ". . . transformation is not a goal of tomorrow; it is a fundamentally important endeavor that we must embrace in earnest today."

Today there are exciting things happening in the personnel recovery arena at the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) level and down through the operational levels of the Services and Geographic Combatant Commanders. While this transformation is underway, we believe we can make a compelling case to address all the pertinent issues in personnel recovery. We determined the best way to approach transformation is to obtain our cornerstone document from the Secretary of Defense.



New technologies enhance our recovery capabilities.

To that end, the document will acknowledge that while the Military Services and Combatant Commanders have taken significant strides towards “jointness” and interoperability, much work remains to meet the full range of challenges to transform a mission area that extends across the entire range of military operations. It will also acknowledge that the DoD must maintain and improve its capability to recover isolated or missing personnel and define future requirements and program resources to support a truly joint personnel recovery capability. The document will reinforce core principles the DPMO leadership has highlighted. We must:

- Continue to maintain a powerful, credible, well-trained, and well-equipped capability to recover isolated or missing American personnel.

- Procure and integrate new technologies to enhance the recovery of our personnel.
- Develop new doctrine to make personnel recovery a joint capability.
- Ensure complete interoperability with our interagency, allied, and coalition partners.

These core principles will assist and guide the DoD Components in their effort to transform personnel recovery across DoD. For the first time in DoD, every Geographic Combatant Command, Service and key organization and agency has a focal point or office dedicated to personnel recovery staffed with trained experts. We have reduced the educational hurdles to a manageable size and key personnel are in place—the time is right to transform personnel recovery and we accomplished the following activities toward that goal.



Operation IRAQI FREEDOM -- A pararescueman drops in on a rope from an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter during a Combat Search and Rescue exercise. (USAF photo by MSgt. Robert R. Hargreaves Jr.)

PERSONNEL RECOVERY—MISSION SET

PERSONNEL RECOVERY MISSION SET

DoD Directives and Instructions (DoDD and DoDI) not only define DPMO's policy responsibilities for the personnel recovery mission, but also shape the conduct of personnel recovery across DoD. These documents will evolve to realize the goal of a fully transformed personnel recovery mission area. We continue our proactive approach to personnel recovery as we strive to arm our service members and government service employees with the knowledge essential to "bring them home with honor," should they ever become isolated. The primary goal of DPMO's Personnel Recovery Policy Directorate is to be the driving force behind the transformation of personnel recovery in DoD.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Calendar Year 2003 was filled with accomplishments in the personnel recovery arena. Among our list of highlights is the sponsorship of a seminal study to research what should comprise a national personnel recovery architecture. Congressionally directed, and in partnership with the Institute for Defense Analyses, we made significant progress with the National Personnel Recovery Architecture Study. Taking into consideration DoD's transformation goals, the study is examining how we conduct personnel recovery business inside DoD; how we work with our interagency and multinational partners to recover our isolated, missing, and captured personnel; and how we execute recovery operations. From training, through the initial notification process, through the actual recovery activity, and ending with the safe return or accounting for our isolated personnel, the study addresses the personnel recovery process on a national level.



BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq -- An HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter from the 64th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron comes to pickup pararescuemen. (USAF photo by SSgt. Aaron Allmon)

The primary deliverable from the National Personnel Recovery Architecture Study is a National Security Presidential Directive that will incorporate interservice and interagency coordination during personnel recovery events. This ensures deployed government personnel have a minimum standard of training, equipment, and capability. For the first time, members from throughout the personnel recovery community are working together to solidify those interservice and interagency responsibilities during personnel recovery events.

SCRIPTING OUR FUTURE

DPMO developed and implemented a new policy instruction with regard to training “high risk of isolation” DoD civilian and contractor employees. *DoDI 1300.23* provides these personnel a more complete understanding of the expectations of the U.S. Government in regard to their actions should they become isolated as a result of their employment activities. Additionally, we began the rewrite of all of the personnel recovery DoD directives and instructions to ensure we continue the push towards transformation, and incorporate the significant lessons learned from Operations ALLIED FORCE, ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, and the EP-3 incident with China.



U.S. Prisoners of War return after their captivity during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

PERSONNEL RECOVERY—THE WAY AHEAD

The Six Articles of The Code of Conduct

I am an American, fighting in the forces which guard my country and our way of life. I am prepared to give my life in their defense.

I will never surrender of my own free will. If in command, I will never surrender the members of my command while they still have the means to resist.

If I am captured, I will continue to resist by all means available. I will make every effort to escape and aid others to escape. I will accept neither parole nor special favors from the enemy.

If I become a prisoner of war, I will keep faith with my fellow prisoners. I will give no information or take part in any action which might be harmful to my comrades. If I am senior, I will take command. If not, I will obey the lawful orders of those appointed over me, and will back them up in every way.

When questioned, should I become a prisoner of war, I am required to give only name, rank, service number, and date of birth. I will evade answering further questions to the utmost of my ability. I will make no oral or written statements disloyal to my country and its allies or harmful to their cause.

I will never forget that I am an American, fighting for freedom, responsible for my actions, and dedicated to the principles which made my country free. I will trust in my God and in the United States of America.

THE WAY AHEAD

Thus far we have only addressed the “tip of the iceberg” with regard to the transformation of personnel recovery in DoD. It is exciting to be a part of the transformation as Geographic Combatant Commanders and Service personnel recovery Council and Working Group meetings produce results and increase visibility on personnel recovery issues. The Personnel Recovery Advisory Group provides a venue for the key senior executives in the personnel recovery community to voice their concerns and ideas for personnel recovery. The Core Captivity Curriculum concept of the Joint Code of Conduct training is one such result.

To ensure our personnel recovery forces have the most modern and effective equipment that is interoperable across the Services and with our international partners, we formed the Personnel Recovery Technology Interoperability Working Group and the Personnel Recovery Modernization Working Group. One of the major programs we are applying to the personnel recovery mission set is the transitional architecture as the first step towards interoperable advanced survival radios as DoD begins to embrace the Joint Tactical Radio System. The Personnel



BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq -- An Air Force pararescue-man secures a landing zone. He is assigned to the 64th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron. (USAF photo by SSgt. Aaron Allmon)

Recovery Modernization Working Group gives us the most comprehensive lever we have ever had for building sound personnel recovery requirements.

DPMO's personnel recovery policy team will continue its steps to transform personnel recovery within DoD as many Americans, both civilian and military, serve the U.S. in pursuit of our national interests, often doing so in dangerous and inhospitable environments. We have a sacred obligation to recover our personnel when operations do not go as planned, and we will work tirelessly to return them home with honor.



Operation IRAQI FREEDOM -- An image from video shown during a U.S. Central Command news conference April 2 shows the rescue of Army PFC Jessica Lynch on April 1—the first such rescue of an American POW from captivity since World War II. (DoD image)

APPENDIX A

DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT DIVISION PRODUCTION BREAKDOWN

- 62 FOIA requests totaling 75,262 pages
- 397 declassification requests totaling 18,000 pages
- 1,647 pages of SAR logs in 2003 (11,747 pages total)
- 15,000 pages shipped to LoC (975,000 pages total)
- 7 PNOK "status change" files totaling 1,290 pages
- 230,000 "log-ins" to LoC database
- 25 case files added to RetrievalWare in 2003
- 153 case files total in RetrievalWare
- 100 case files indexed
- 101 case files electronically scanned
- 508 complete case file updates
- 260 "case summary sheets" reviewed for families
- 5 special projects completed
- 1,121 files checked out and in

APPENDIX B

ACRONYMS

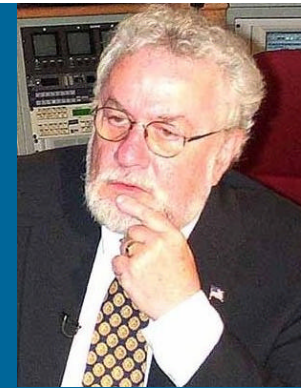
AFDIL	<i>Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory</i>
CILHI	<i>Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii – The “CIL” is now part of JPAC.</i>
DASD	<i>Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense</i>
DIA	<i>Defense Intelligence Agency</i>
DMZ	<i>Demilitarized Zone</i>
DNA	<i>Deoxyribonucleic Acid</i>
DoD	<i>Department of Defense</i>
DoS	<i>Department of State</i>
DPMO	<i>Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office</i>
DPRK	<i>Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (North Korea)</i>
FOIA	<i>Freedom of Information Act</i>
GULAG	<i>Glavnoe Upravlenie Lagerej – Main Administration of Camps in the former Soviet Union</i>
ICRC	<i>International Committee of the Red Cross</i>
JCSD	<i>Joint Commission Support Directorate, the DPMO Directorate responsible for assisting the USRJC</i>
JFA	<i>Joint Field Activity</i>
JPAC	<i>Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command – Formed by the merger of JTF-FA and CILHI in October 2003</i>
JPRA	<i>Joint Personnel Recovery Agency</i>
JRO	<i>Joint Recovery Operation</i>
JTF-FA	<i>Joint Task Force-Full Accounting -- JTF-FA is now part of JPAC</i>
KGB	<i>Komitet Gosudarstvennoj Bezopasnosti – Committee for State Security in the former Soviet Union</i>
LKA	<i>Last Known Alive</i>
LoC	<i>Library of Congress</i>
LSEL	<i>Life Science Equipment Laboratory</i>
MIA	<i>Missing in Action</i>
MPA	<i>Missing Persons Act</i>

APPENDICES

NARA	<i>National Archives and Records Administration</i>
NPRC	<i>National Personnel Records Center</i>
PMCOLD	<i>Personnel Missing in the Cold War</i>
PMKOR	<i>Personnel Missing in Korea</i>
PMSEA	<i>Personnel Missing in Southeast Asia</i>
PMWWII	<i>Personnel Missing in World War II</i>
POW	<i>Prisoner of War</i>
PRC	<i>People's Republic of China</i>
ROK	<i>Republic of Korea (South Korea)</i>
SAR	<i>Search and Rescue</i>
SRV	<i>Socialist Republic of Vietnam</i>
Stony Beach	<i>A Defense Intelligence Agency team that investigates live sighting reports associated with the Vietnam War</i>
TPC	<i>Tripartite Commission (of the International Committee of the Red Cross)</i>
USJFCOM	<i>United States Joint Forces Command</i>
USPACOM	<i>United States Pacific Command</i>
USRJC	<i>United States-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIA Affairs</i>
VNOSMP	<i>Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons</i>



Mr. Joe Harvey
Chief of Staff



Mr. Adrian Cronauer
Special Assistant to the
DASD



Mr. Mel Richmond
Senior Director, Policy



Dr. Kaye Whitley,
Senior Director,
Communication



Mr. Norm Kass
Senior Director, Joint
Commission Support



Mr. John Brown
Senior Director,
Support



Mr. Ash Ormes
Senior Director,
Research



2400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-2400
www.dtic.mil/dpmo